

The Examiner suggests that the product of Group I can be used in a materially different process than the process of Group II, suggesting that the product can be used in a method of washing dishes or a method of cleaning hard surfaces. The Examiner, however, does not offer any support for this suggested different use. In the absence of support for the suggested alternative use, Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of Group I and II are not distinct.

Further, even if the claims of Group I and II are distinct, the Office has not established that searching the entire application would impose a serious burden. MPEP §803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a **serious** burden, the Examiner **must** examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.
(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office. Notably, all of Claims 17-20 require the use of the composition of Claim 1, and thus the search for Group II considerably overlaps with that for Group I. No serious burden is imposed.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is improper, and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Applicants further request that, in the event the above-mentioned Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, the non-elected method claims of Group II be rejoined should the elected composition claims of Group I be found patentable. All of the non-elected method claims are directed to a process of making or using the product in the composition claim and ought to be allowed if the composition is patentable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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